

News Release

Banned Books Week September 22-27, 2014, at the U of M Crookston

By Itollefs on Thursday, September 11, 2014

Celebrating the freedom to read will be the focus during Banned Books Week at the University of Minnesota Crookston. Beginning on Monday, September 22 and running through Saturday, September 27, the week will include public readings, a panel discussion and open forum, along with displays and more. Activities are free and everyone is welcome

Public readings from banned books will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 23 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center. There will several readings each hour. Many of the readers will be faculty or staff and readers will select their own reading. Each reading will be introduced, placed into context, and after the reading, there will be a few minutes for questions or comments.

On Wednesday, Sept. 24, a panel discussion will be held with faculty panelists from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Prairie Room. The panel is organized by Karen Miller, who teaches in the Liberal Arts and Education Department.

On Thursday, Sept. 25, public readings will take place again from 10 a.m. to noon in the Prairie Room. Chancellor Wood is scheduled to read along with staff members from the Lake Agassiz Public Library in Crookston will be reading as well.

During the week, the Library at the U of M Crookston will have a display of banned books from its collections. The week is sponsored by the Academic Success Center on the Crookston campus.

Background on Banned Books Week

Banned Books Week is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. Typically held during the last week of September, it highlights the value of free and open access to information. Banned Books Week brings together the entire book community -- librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types -- in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular.

The books featured during Banned Books Week have all been targeted with removal or restrictions in libraries and schools. While books have been and continue to be banned, part of the Banned Books Week celebration is the fact that, in a majority of cases, the books have remained available. To learn more, visit www.ala.org/bbooks/bannedbooksweek.

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 29 bachelor's degree programs, 20 minors, and 36 concentrations on campus--as well as 13 degrees online--in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from more than 20 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

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